

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 21 have been cancelled, and claims 2, 9, 16 and 20 have been amended. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and other applications. Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-20 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cordery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,921). Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,921) in view of Cordery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,391). Claims 4, 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,921) in view of Cordery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,391) and further in view of Wells et al. (U.S. 2001/0032881). Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 and 21 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 8, 15 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is moot and the only rejections remaining are under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

U.S. Patent No. 6,466,921 issued on Oct. 15, 2002 from Application Serial No. 09/242,207 filed on June 11, 1999. U.S. patent No. 6,526,391 issued on Feb. 25, 2003 from Application Serial No. 09/242,208 filed on May 21, 1999. The present application has a filing date of Feb. 5, 2001. Accordingly, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,466,921 and 6,526,391 qualify as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent Nos. 6,466,921 and 6,526,391 are disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) based on common ownership, as stated in the Statement Concerning Common Ownership being filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are improper and should be removed by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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